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MUELLER MOVES AGAINST MANAFORT

FORMER TRUMP CAMPAIGN CHIEF INDICTED

Two other former officials targeted in Russia probe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul Manafort leaves federal district court in Washington on Monday. Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, pleaded not guilty to felony charges of conspiracy against the United States and other counts.

THE CHARGES

BY CHAD DAY AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON • In a black Monday for Donald Trump's White House, the special counsel investigating possible coordination between the Kremlin and the Trump presidential campaign announced the first charges, indicting Trump's former campaign chairman and revealing how an adviser lied to the FBI about meetings with Russian intermediaries.

The formal charges against three people are the first public demonstration that special counsel Robert Mueller and his team believe they have identified criminal conduct. And they send a warning that individuals in the Trump orbit who do not cooperate with Mueller's investigators, or who are believed to mislead them during questioning, could also wind up charged and facing years in prison.

Paul Manafort, who steered Trump's campaign for much of last year, and

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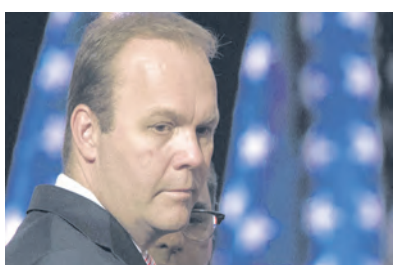
GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS
Former foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign pleaded guilty of making false statements to the FBI. This is the campaign's clearest connection to Russian efforts to meddle in the election.



RICK GATES
Former Trump campaign official also turned himself in Monday. He pleaded not guilty.

THE RESPONSE

BY CATHLEEN DECKER
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON • His presidency facing fresh peril, President Donald Trump and his loyalists have adopted a twofold strategy to protect him against the indictment of two senior campaign aides and a guilty plea on the part of a third, more junior aide: distancing Trump from alleged wrongdoers and leveling new attacks on an old nemesis, Hillary Clinton.

Shortly after the announcement that indictments had been issued for former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and Manafort's long-term colleague Rick Gates, Trump outlined his strategy succinctly, if not entirely accurately.

"Sorry, but this is years ago, before Paul Manafort was part of the Trump campaign. But why aren't Crooked Hillary and the Dems the focus?????" he wrote on Twitter.

1. "Also, there is NO COLLUSION!"

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American Airlines is closing St. Louis pilot base

Aircraft update spurs move; 180 pilots who live here are affected

BY LISA BROWN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In a move that cuts one more link to long-defunct TWA, American Airlines will close its St. Louis pilot base in September, affecting 180 pilots who live in the region.

The pilots who live in St. Louis will either have to commute to other cities or relocate after the base closes, American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller told the Post-Dispatch on Monday.

The closing is prompted by an upgrade in aircraft, as McDonnell Douglas-made MD-80s are retired and replaced with Boeing-made 737-800 aircraft.

American has 46 MD-80s in its system, which will be reduced to 26 by September. "We are also focused on simplifying hub/fleet operations by placing certain aircraft in certain stations to improve aircraft utilization," American Airlines spokeswoman Leslie Mayo said in an email.

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Search for next police chief narrows

BY CHRISTINE BYERS
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • The deadline for applications to become the city's next police chief passed Friday, sending the selection process into high gear for officials who want to pick a chief by the end of the year.

The successful candidate will take leadership of 1,100 officers at a time when the department is under intense scrutiny. The city has faced protests over the acquittal of a former officer accused of murdering a drug suspect, and the department has come under fire for its handling of those protests.

For the first time since the city took local control of the department from the state in 2013, the chief can come from outside the department. That prompted a national search.

In all, 42 people applied. That number has already been cut by more than half because some

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Most Metro East schools fall short of state average in math, English

Students are in 3rd year of more rigorous testing

BY KRISTEN TAKETA
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Most Metro East school districts performed worse than the Illinois average in state English and math tests this year, and just one local district had more than two-thirds of its students meeting state testing benchmarks for either subject.

Just 19 of 43 districts in Madison, St. Clair and Monroe counties scored at least as well as the state average in English, while 18 districts did so in math, according to Illinois school report card data released Tuesday.

Statewide, 37.2 percent of students met state requirements in English and 31.7 percent met state requirements in math.

This is the third year Illinois public schools have taken the more rigorous

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Fallout continues for Spacey
PAGE A15

Court bars transgender military ban
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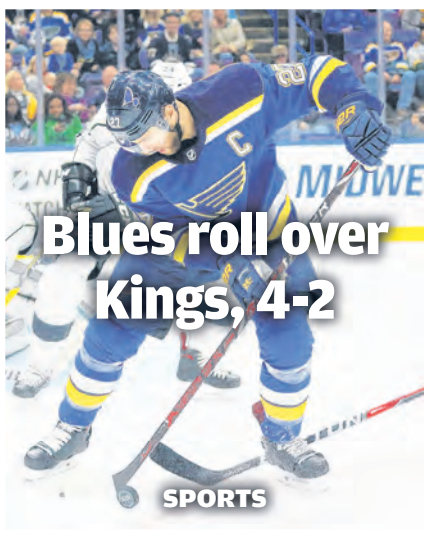

Blues roll over Kings, 4-2
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Four on council sue Stenger
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Budget ploy may make 401(k) less attractive • A8

Ezekiel Elliott's suspension is reinstated by judge • B2

U.S. captures key militant in Benghazi attack • A11

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